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Agenda item 121
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Thirtieth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/58/34). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The total estimated requirements related to the statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates amount to $23,020,100, exceeding by $1,420,100 the approved level of the contingency fund of $21.6 million. The Advisory Committee notes that at this point the Fifth Committee has yet to take formal action with regard to the approval of the specific programme budget implications and revised estimates that are currently before it; accordingly, the consolidated statement takes as its starting point the total value of the relevant items that are before the Fifth Committee for decision.

3. The Secretary-General proposes adjustments that would bring the overall level of charges within the level of the contingency fund. The proposed adjustments, which amount to $7,869,300, are explained in paragraphs 3 to 12 of the report of the Secretary-General and are itemized in the annex to the report.

4. With regard to the reference to the initial recommendations of the Advisory Committee (A/C.5/58/34, para. 3), the Committee points out that its recommendation for a reduction in the amount of $3.2 million in respect of the estimate for more predictable and adequate conference services to the meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States (A/58/7/Add.5, para. 20) was on the understanding that it was up to the General Assembly to formulate a policy decision as to whether or not to change the existing mandate for the provision of conference services to regional and other major groupings of Member States.

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5. **Should the General Assembly accept the assumptions and suggestions contained in the report of the Secretary-General, the balance of funds available from the initial $21.6 million in the contingency fund would amount to $6,449,200.**